

EICHMANN TRIAL: An Incredible Spectacle

**There are facets to it that
could explode with surprises**

BY PETER J. HUXLEY-BLYTHE

Few events in our generation will attract as much attention and evoke as many questions as the Eichmann trial in Jerusalem.

It is indeed a trial without precedent in history. Abducted from Argentina and charged by the State of Israel with the mass murder of Jews in Europe, Eichmann is being tried by his accusers.

Any pretext of legality, as we know it in the West, is mere theatrics. Its purpose is more to serve political ends. Israeli leaders hope to vindicate the dignity of the Jewish people, to arouse world opinion against Nazis who have escaped punishment and possibly to set a precedent.

The trial, while it may effectively serve these ends, will revive unpleasant memories and stir up old antagonisms. It will produce gruesome testimony that adds little to Nazi guilt. It will raise questions about other facets of the problems of social justice, particularly in Palestine where Jews and Arabs are in conflict. As the present article shows, the Kremlin is already making propaganda use of the Eichmann affair in the Middle East.

The people of West Germany are a purged people and in no sense heirs of the Nazi breed. They are our ally and friend. We need their friendship and they need ours. For them to reap a whirlwind of hatred from the trial is wrong and solves no problems, for two wrongs never made a right.

Mr. Peter J. Huxley-Blythe, author of the article, is a veteran British political news analyst with unique sources of information.

AS THE GAUNT FIGURE of ex-Nazi S. S. Obersturmbannführer Adolf Eichmann, alias Ricardo Clement, stands trial in Israel charged with ordering and supervising the systematic mass murder of Jewish men, women and children during World War II, he will have to watch, day after day, a stream of survivors from Nazi death camps and listen as they tell their individual stories of misery and horror.

And their testimony, plus the thousands of documents produced by the prosecution, will be world headline news.

Yet the trial of Adolf Eichmann is most probably the greatest legal hoax of all time.

Even before the defense counsel stepped into court he knew that he could not press certain aspects of the case which might benefit his client.

He could not seriously question the validity of the court by pointing out that Eichmann's arrest and kidnaping from Argentinian soil was not only contrary to all concepts of international law but also has only one parallel in modern history, when the Nazis kidnaped two British Intelligence officers, Captains Stevens and Best, in the Dutch town of Venlo and took them back into Hitler's Reich

just before the outbreak of World War II — a crime that was condemned at the Nuremberg trials.

If defense counsel were to attempt to do this, the Parliamentary Committee Chairman, who is responsible for stage-managing this circus, hinted long before the trial began what would happen — to question the validity of the court would be considered an act of deliberate contempt of Israeli law and defense counsel would be removed from the courtroom. (*London Jewish Chronicle*, November 25, 1960.)

Alternatively, the defense cannot strenuously demand that their client be handed over to an International Tribunal, using the legitimate argument that when the crimes were committed the State of Israel did not exist and therefore cannot claim jurisdiction over the case.

This point was raised by Nahum Goldmann, President of the World Zionist Organization, when he suggested other nations be allowed to participate in the proceedings. But Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion refused even to consider the proposal and wrote:

Historic justice and the honor of the Jewish people demand his trial should be done only by an Israeli court in the sovereign Jewish state.

This was the decision of the Government of Israel and the opinion of the entire Jewish people in its land.—New York Times, June 12, 1960.

When he wrote this high-sounding declaration, Mr. Ben-Gurion magnified his own self-importance by assuming that the Jewish people scattered throughout the world recognize him and his government as their elected leaders and Israel as their national, as opposed to spiritual, homeland.

If his assumption were correct then all Jews living in other countries would be aliens, citizens of Israel. To carry this reasoning a step further, when Stalin tried and executed certain Jews for "crimes against the State," it was not a manifestation of anti-Semitism but a legitimate action brought against agents of a foreign power — Israel.

This is ridiculous and the majority of World Jewry would be the first to agree.

HOWEVER, THERE IS far more to the Eichmann trial than questions of pure legality or revenge. There is a political side to it that is loaded with dynamite. Mr. Ben-Gurion knows this too and has made no secret of the fact that he intends it to have widespread political repercussions.

It is not the penalty to be inflicted on the criminal (Eichmann) that is the main thing — no penalty can measure up to the magnitude of the offense — but the full exposure of the Nazi regime's atrocious crimes against our people; it is not Eichmann's acts alone that are the main thing in this trial. — NEW YORK TIMES, June 12, 1960.

Not content with making a statement which condemned the prisoner before the trial began, the Israeli Premier added that it will show the Arabs who refuse to recognize his country that they are Hitler's successors and, presumably, must be prepared to meet a similar fate in the future.

One did not need to have a crystal ball or study the stars to foretell what would happen when people read and saw the evidence of what happened in the Nazi concentration camps; their passions would be inflamed and a wave of anti-Germanism and anti-Arab feeling was bound to follow.

To insure that it did the Kremlin ordered, before the trial began, all Communist cells to exploit the Eichmann affair as a means of branding West Germany, a vital link in the NATO defense chain, as a home-from-home for Nazi war criminals and to foster animosity against the Arab nations so they would be forced to turn their backs

upon the West and become entangled in the Red spider's web.

Communist sympathizers and secret agents were told to use all means at their disposal to create a mythical threat of Nazi resurgence which Moscow could and is using to destroy various right-wing opponents.

Jewish comrades in the party received instructions to remain in the background as much as possible while urging their fellow Jews to attack Western Governments for their failure to take sterner action against former Nazis and anti-Semites. And this part of the over-all Kremlin plan had many early successes.

To give only one example. On February 3, 1961, two prominent members of the Viennese Jewish community attacked the anti-Communist Austrian government for its failure to bring to trial ex-Nazis who are guilty of murdering Jews and other crimes.

At a press conference these two Jewish spokesmen attempted to substantiate their accusation by quoting a man called Franz Murrer, a person they claim was responsible for murdering 80,000 Jews.

They agreed that Murrer had already been sentenced to seven years imprisonment by a Soviet court, which has been rarely

known to be lenient, and had returned to Austria after serving that term. This, they said, was an inadequate punishment.

Their actions are undoubtedly affected by the current and mounting hysteria because neither of them appeared to remember that under all civilized codes of law a man can only be tried for the same crime once.

Yet to return to Eichmann's trial.

THE EDMONTON (Canada) JOURNAL (September 27, 1960) published a dispatch from Jerusalem, sent by one Leo Heiman:

Casting an ominous shadow over the nation-wide jubilation here, following the cloak-and-dagger capture in Buenos Aires of the Jews' Nazi Enemy Number One, are Eichmann's "revelations" of his Jewish agents who aided him and his Nazi henchmen, amongst them numerous Israeli officials.

His chief agent, he contends, now holds a key official post in Jerusalem.

Newspapermen alerted to cover the proceedings began speculating about secrets of this type which may come to light.

Now there is reason to believe hopes of this nature will fail to materialize. According to the *London Jewish Chronicle* of Septem-

ber 2, 1960, the prisoner may have been made to undergo the Communist perfected brainwashing-confession technique:

... Eichmann is forbidden to keep count of time by making marks on the wall. He does not know what month it is, what day it is, or what time it is... Eichmann is now in a "co-operative" mood and there are no difficulties in getting him to talk about his past.

This report is the most alarming of many which have reached the outside world because it tends to suggest the Israeli authorities have something to hide.

If they simply wished to secure a verdict of "guilty" any form of brainwashing would be unnecessary. Eichmann has no real defense to offer against the charges laid against him. Even his former colleagues in the Nazi S.S. openly admit he is guilty of ordering the mass extermination of Jews.

The only point on which they disagree with the Israelis is the number of Jewish victims involved. This has been the cause of much controversy since S.S. Sturmbannfuhrer, Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, testified at Nuremberg on December 17, 1945, "Eichmann (S.S. Obersturmbannfuhrer and Chief of Department for Jewish Questions IX B4 of the Gestapo) said to me at the end of August, 1944, that in

different camps 4,000,000 Jews were killed, whilst a further two million found their death otherwise. This figure was top secret." (An affidavit, Document 2738 PS GB 296.)

Up to the present day this affidavit is the only authentic document showing six million Jews were killed.

Whether it was six million or 60,000 does not lessen Eichmann's crime but, while touching on this question, it is pertinent to recall what Karl Hess wrote in his brilliant article "Fifty-four Million Dead":

... these deaths by persecution are the ones always the most susceptible to diminishment, on the part of the accused, and expansion on the part of the spokesmen for the aggrieved. In between may lie the truth and regardless, it would be horrible enough. (AMERICAN MERCURY, March, 1954.)

IRRESPECTIVE OF THE figures a question remains to be answered: Are the Israeli government or certain important Israeli functionaries trying to prevent unsavory but important facts from coming to light during the trial? There is every reason to believe this is so!

Some political analysts believe the air of mystery is due to the desire of the authorities to prevent

Eichmann from trying to obscure the main issues by stressing the really insignificant role played by wartime Jewish traitors. This is a simple and logical explanation but is not a complete answer.

Could Eichmann, were he not inhibited, implicate not only fugitive Nazis, but also throw a surprise spotlight on Jewish betrayers?

It is only reasonable to assume that Eichmann's pogroms had to have inside help. Human experience tells us that many a weak man will turn traitor to save his own life — *res ipsa loquitur*. It is only natural that, out of 6,000,000, the Jews had traitors among their own people. Any other conclusion would be unrealistic.

Cunning Nazi psychologists recruited the base and weak among the Jews to be internal police squads charged with helping them carry out the extermination program. These traitors sought to curry favor by being a party to the atrocities.

When this militia had outlived its usefulness, many of its members suffered the same fate as other Jews, with one exception. They died as cowards. Others of them managed to slink into oblivion, where they are now hiding in fear of exposure.

The trial, if allowed a semblance of legal procedure, could explode

with surprises. Some think there are hundreds of Eichmann's former henchmen and informers, Nazis and otherwise, who at this moment tremble at what the S.S. Obersturmbannfuhrer could reveal.

ONE MAN WHO CANNOT be present at the trial, George Kaft-Ostrikov, believed he knew the answer to the present enigma.

Arrested in Piraeus, Greece, September, 1950, Ostrikov told Greek authorities that he had come to their country from Israel to enter the Orthodox Catholic monasteries on Mount Athos. He begged the officials not to deport him to Israel.

Asked why he, a Jew, wanted to enter an Orthodox monastery, he replied: "I want to change my name and dedicate myself to writing all I know about the forces behind the politicians so that the world can learn and thereby have, at least, a chance of survival."

Ostrikov's bizarre story was obtained by Mr. Nicholas Sheikin, the man who interrogated him and whose sworn statement of the interview I have in my possession. Here, in substance, is what Ostrikov confessed to Sheikin.

He had been born just prior to World War I in Southern Russia. In 1942 a Communist official visited his home with orders that

he was to go to Germany on an important mission.

Knowing what was happening to Jews in the Nazi occupied areas, Ostrikov tried to refuse the assignment, but his father assured him he would be safe and nothing would happen to him even though he was a Jew.

He was taught various secret signs and passwords and had to memorize a message which he would ultimately deliver to a group of important men held as prisoners in one of the Nazi concentration camps; a camp which he would be sent to by those who recognized his signs and answered the passwords.

Soviet officers escorted him to the front line and showed him where and how to infiltrate through it and he managed to reach Poland before he was arrested.

Questioned by a stream of Nazi officers, Ostrikov kept repeating the recognition sign until, at last, an S. S. man answered it. They exchanged passwords and, according to plan, he was sent, as a Jew, to the concentration camp at Dachau.

Upon arriving at his destination he repeated the sign and after it had been acknowledged was taken to a special barracks where cer-

tain important Jews and Communists, the men he had the message for, were quartered.

These are the words George Kaft-Ostrikov used to describe his life as a concentration camp inmate.

"They were delighted to see me and welcomed me like a brother. But to my astonishment, and contrary to all the stories I had heard in Russia about these death camps, my fellow prisoners had comfortable, spacious quarters, clean beds, good food with wine to go with it and they assured me I would never be sent, like those living in the general camp outside, to the slaughterhouse.

"Sometimes I looked out of the window and saw thousands of Jews being treated worse than cattle and I watched them being sent to meet their death."

For the remainder of the war Ostrikov and his companions, according to his narrative, lived luxuriously amidst carnage. They were finally liberated by units of the U. S. Army.

Sheikin reported this conversation just as he had heard it.

OSTRIKOV WAS DENIED permission to enter an Orthodox monastery. On October 20, 1950, he was deported to Israel abroad the

Italian ship "Filippo Grimani." He next turned up in Australia and worked for the Soviet Embassy in Canberra. Apparently he had yet another change of heart and reverted to his earlier allegiance.

In the summer of 1953 he applied to the Soviet Embassy, according to Russian emigre circles in Melbourne, for a passport to return to the Soviet Union. As his ship was steaming through the Suez Canal he jumped overboard in an unsuccessful suicide bid. The following day he was found dead in his cabin hanging from the bulkhead.

A British newspaperman reported his death and wrote he had been kidnaped by Soviet agents in Australia and had committed suicide rather than face life under Communism.

Just what caused Ostrikov to kill himself will forever remain a mystery, like the man himself, but two things about him are still important: Was he telling the truth about his luxurious life in a concentration camp and was this the reason why he did not want to return to Israel in case some of Eichmann's former agents there killed him to keep the secret?

The answer could be he was simply a grandiose liar and if there was only his unsupported evidence

this would be the logical explanation. But there is other evidence.

If we are to believe all the evidence readily available, Eichmann's anti-Jewish Department and the Gestapo systematically murdered Jews and other nationals who were or could be a menace.

Towards the end of the war this mass murder was speeded up. But we also know from unimpeachable sources that prominent Jews and leading Communists were not killed, while from a political point of view, insignificant Jews and Reds were slaughtered. This poses another question: Was the Gestapo inefficient and killed indiscriminately or were certain people protected by senior members of the Gestapo?

Neither the answer to this, nor Ostrikov's story, not to mention Eichmann's accusation that some of his former agents are now living and working in Israel, absolves, exonerates or alleviates the inhuman crimes of the former Obersturmbannfuhrer. Like any other criminal he must pay for his iniquitous actions, but what a pity Ostrikov and others cannot be made to testify at Eichmann's trial and thereby help to solve what is probably the only unsolved mystery of Hitler's Germany and Eichmann's death camps.